
SERMON NOTES June 20, 2021

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/Connect

Exodus 20:3 The First Foundation Pastor Mike

I. The 1st command in _____ and _____

The 1st command is best translated "*you shall have no other gods* _____"

It calls us to make God our _____

...and to _____ to God's wisdom and authority in _____

II. The true nature of our _____ and of _____

A definition of a god or idol;

What we worship isn't best revealed on _____,

but by what we think and do _____

Worship isn't a theological question, but a practical question of what _____ ...

III. Old Testaments _____ and modern _____

IV. The core issue; Not love the world _____, but love and _____

The problem is not that our desires are too _____,

but that they are too _____

V. Four questions for self-evaluation;

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. When asked to name the Ten Commandments most people start with last six which deal with our relationships with each other (don't kill, steal, commit adultery, etc.). But God started with the commandments that dealt with our relationship with Him; the first being *"You shall have no other gods before me."*
 - a. Why do you think it is our nature to start with the commands dealing with our relationships with each other?
 - b. How significant is it that God started with the command *"you shall have no other gods before me?"* How is this the first and most important- the first foundation?
 - c. If we haven't really dealt with the first commandment, how is that likely to impact the way that we understand and apply the other nine?
2. In his message, Pastor Mike pointed out that while most Bibles translate the First Commandment, *"you shall have no other gods before me,"* it can also be translated, *"you shall have no other gods besides me, or in addition to me."* What is the importance in this distinction? How can we have other gods in our life in addition to the true God?
3. In the First Commandment God commands us *"you shall have no other gods before me,"* or *"besides me, or in addition to me."* Many see this only as a command that focuses on our religious practice – the God we worship in church or worship services.
 - a. What is your understanding of the other gods or idols that God is telling us we shouldn't put in the place of God in our lives?
 - b. In his message Pastor Mike gave several definitions of a "god" or an "idol." How did those definitions impact your understanding of the 1st Commandment?
4. While we no longer make statues and give names to our contemporary gods, are the gods of today really different from the gods of Moses' day? How are they the similar and how are they different? How has our 'worship' of these gods changed?
5. When asked about them, most people quickly respond, "I try to keep the Ten Commandments."
 - a. Do you think if asked about the first commandment that most people would say that they keep it? What would most Christians say?
 - b. In your opinion do most Americans keep the First Commandment? Why or why not?
 - c. Of the 10, do you think the first is one of the easier or one of the harder commandments to keep, and why?
6. It is human nature to be tempted to put other gods above God—we all struggle with it. But do you think that most Christians are able to honestly see where they struggle with idolatry, and are able to discern what other things are competing with God for priority in their lives? Why or why not?
 - a. Often the idol is not something intrinsically sinful; Satan tempts us to put a good thing above God – something like our kids, our job, or our hobbies. But it is hard for us to see something that is good as becoming an idol and a cause of sin. Do you agree with this? Why or why not?
 - b. What things have you struggled with putting above or beside God in importance in your life? What are you struggling with now? What possible gods might you be blinded to?
 - c. Pastor Mike ended his message with four questions for self-reflection about things that might be competing for the place of God in your life. Did you ask yourself those questions? What did they reveal about your heart?